



# Black & Amber Alliance

## Issue 3

### Welcome

To issue 3 of the Black & Amber Alliance, issues 1 & 2 were published some time ago, but unfortunately it's publication ceased. The rebirth of this publication is courtesy of individual members of FoNR, who have come forward to write and finance this publication. It's aim is to raise awareness of the work carried out by FoNR, also to publicise news from the Official Newport Rugby Supporters Club and the Former Players Association. It is hoped that this will be published 4 times a year with the next edition soon after the next season starts. Your comments regarding this publication would be greatly received.

### Membership



Delighted to say that membership has increased from 140 in 2006 and now stands at over 180.

### Total Fundraising



Increased from nearly £9500 in 2005 and now stands at almost £24000 year ending 31/12/2006.

### Community



We have forged links with many local clubs who have provided Guards of Honour for most home games.

### Player Sponsorship



New this season, sponsorship of Newport RFC players has raised over £8000.

### Bullion Draw



Membership continues to grow, increasing prize fund and revenue accordingly. 2005's Income of £2955, raised to £4210 in 2006.

### Web Site



Popularity and use of the web site and free supporters forum continues to grow. Sponsorship has made this "self funding."

### Merchandise



Available range continues to grow, replica shirts, leisure wear and other "goodies" all available. Profits are up 33% to over £2000.

### History



We have arranged the restoration and display of many items of memorabilia. Also the History of Newport RFC website has been launched

## Completed Projects

### The Memorial Gates



Above - Messrs. Bennett, Wigmore, Stallard & Dams  
 Right - Will Godfrey, Dai Watkins and Civic Dignitaries  
 Below - Mike Dams lays a wreath on behalf of FoNR

Sunday December 10th 2006 saw the rededication service of the Memorial Gates. The refurbishment of the gates was a joint project funded by the Club, FoNR, and the supporters club. FoNR were delighted to be able to donate over £4000 to this lasting tribute to those who lost their lives serving their country during the great war.



The service was conducted by Rev Mark Soady, from St Woolos Cathedral and attended by the Deputy Mayor, Deputy Mayoress, and other Council members. Newport Rugby was represented by directors, Will Godfrey, Martin Hazell & David Watkins. Also in attendance were Club Captain Dai Pattison, and Newport Gwent Dragons Captain Kevin Morgan.



There was a splendid turnout for the service, and it was good to have many familiar Rodney Parade faces there along with the veterans and various representative bodies. The Service was preceded by a march from the club house to the gates, led by standards of The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Association, The Merchant Navy Association, and The Royal Navy Association.

# More Completed Projects

## Club House Toilets



Perhaps one of the more basic projects. As I am sure many will testify the Gents Loo's at the Rodney Parade Clubhouse, were not of the highest standards. FoNR were delighted to be able to fund their refurbishment, a project not to be "sniffed at!"

## Flood Lights



£2000 was spent on bringing the floodlights at Rodney Parade up to the levels required. This was another..... "Bright Idea," that benefits all who watch Newport Rugby.

## Newport RFC



Much needed financial support been given to Newport RFC. we have provided many necessary items to the benefit of playing and coaching staff. These range from "Hydration Kits," communication equipment and players training kits. Also we have provided the funding for a qualified Physio to be available at all training sessions as well as all matches. In total we

have been able to donate over £12000 to our club. This level of support has been warmly recognised by the Club Chairman, Mr Will Godfrey, on many occasions.



## Community Sponsorship



We managed to fulfil our aim of hosting a guest school or junior rugby club at most matches this season and ran a mascot scheme in partnership with our friends from the Supporter's Club.

Above - Millbrook Primary  
Below - Caerleon Shadows.



We elected to assist Caerleon U11 RFC this season to provide training suits and equipment. Caerleon RFC have provided many players to Newport RFC, Andy Brown our current hooker is one of these, so the Trust is

hoping that we can help produce future stars in this way. All kit we sponsor is also endorsed to encourage more members to join up and swell the coffers.

# Community News

## Black and Ambers over the top



The Community Section of the Trust has enjoyed a good year and has seen their achievements grow. Last summer, we organised a social pilgrimage to visit the Newport Transporter Bridge in its centenary year. Many Newport fans climbed to the top of the bridge wearing various black and amber garments.

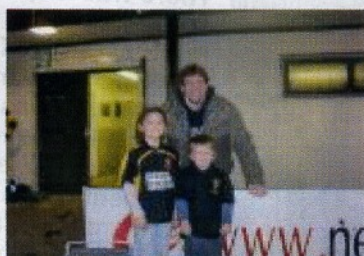
This was followed followed by a lecture on the building of the bridge and a fundraising evening where we were joined by several members of the playing squad.

A similar event is being planned for this summer.

## Match Day Mascots



just some of our mascots, from Left to Right - Dan Griffiths & Ethan Brussalis, Craig Hill & Alex Ford, Dan Griffiths & Adam Hennessey, Gareth Maule & Jordan Hyde



And a few more - Tommy the Tiger & Jordan Samson, Harry & Chloe Cullen with Mark Workman, Bethan Jackson, Ethan Brussalis with Ryan Howells & Mike Poole, and last but not least Ethan's little bro' Alfie Brussalis.



### NROSC contact details:

Website: [newportrugbysupportersclub.com](http://newportrugbysupportersclub.com)

E-Mail: [admin@newportrugbysupportersclub.com](mailto:admin@newportrugbysupportersclub.com)

Post: c/o Newport RFC, Rodney Road, Newport. NP19 0UU

**Newport Rugby Official Supporters' Club** aims to further the support for Newport RFC and rugby football in general. The committee is dedicated to running the club in a responsible and efficient manner in support of these aims whilst returning value to our members at every opportunity.

The Following is a brief summary of some of our achievements this year, aim to repeat them again next year.

**Away Travel:** We have run buses to every Newport RFC away game.



**Social Events:** Including the **New Years Eve Dance** and the **End of Season Dance** (including Player of the Year presentations.) **This years End of Season Dance will be held on Saturday 26th May.**

In February, we held a social evening with the proceeds in aid of Newport based charity, St Anne's Hospice. The evening was a tremendous success and over £1,300 was raised for this very worthwhile local cause. As part of the event, our club steward, Steve Clarke, was 'auctioned off' to sing karaoke live on stage in the clubhouse – a challenge that he met raising £450 in the process.

For the first time this year, we are looking to arrange **family day trips** over the summer period and are planning trips to such local attractions as Bristol Zoo.

We are also organising, in conjunction with FoNR, a dinner in November to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1957 Newport v Australia game (which Newport won 11-0.)

**Match Day Entertainment:** This year we have arranged match day entertainment after a number of Newport RFC games and this seems to be popular and supporters can choose to either party the night away in the Rodney Hall or enjoy the more sedate surroundings of the Snelling Lounge.



**Match Day Mascots:** We have been pleased to work with FoNR to give our junior members the chance to run out with the team at the start of home matches, as well as running out onto the pitch mascots as their favourite player and receive a free polo shirt, jointly funded by the two organisations.

**Schools Rugby:** During March, the Supporters' Club was pleased to sponsor a local schools junior rugby tournament. The final took place at Rodney Parade at half time during the Cross Keys match on Saturday, 7th April 2007 between Marshfield and Trellech schools.

### Player Sponsorship:

We have supported our club financially by sponsoring three players – Mike Poole, James Dixon and Mark Workman. This has put almost £1,000 back into club funds and contribute to the running costs of the team.



**AGM:** will be held in early June and members will receive details within the next few weeks on the exact arrangements.

**Newport Rugby Official Supporters Club** remains vibrant and active, as we hope you will see from just some of activities briefly outlined above. We will have invested over £2,000 in returning value to our members and financially supporting Newport RFC related projects during the 2006/07 season. We will have spend over £500 on Newport RFC match day entertainment, over £250 on community sponsorship and donated over £1,300 to charity. Despite this, our membership fees have remained unchanged for over five years and just £3.50 for adults and £2 for juniors and seniors (and you get a free badge). We anticipate working to a 'balanced' financial budget for this season and this has been achieved in no small part through the unstinting commitment of my fellow committee members and I must take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work during the course of this season.

Finally, to you our members and supporters, thank you for your invaluable support over the last season and we hope that you will continue to support us as we work for the future benefit of Newport RFC for many seasons to come.

Mark Podmore,

**CHAIRMAN.**

Further details of all the above from the Supporters Club Table or any Supporters Club Committee Member.

**Meet The Players:** Once again we organised this popular evening, where members had the opportunity to "quiz" the players & coaches.



**Members Prize Draws:** We have offered a free with membership prize draw at each home game. Adult members win a £25 club shop voucher and junior members a £10 voucher. All members at the end of the season will be entered into a free draw to win a framed golden boot of Rodney Parade legend, Rod Snow.

**Right - Schools Rugby action**  
**Left - Matt Veater & Mascots**



### Player Of The Month:

For the second season running, we have sponsored the Player of the Month award. Supporters can vote each month for their favourite player, at our table in the Rodney Hall.

**Above - Matt Thomas receiving January's award**  
**Left - Committee & "Our Sponsored Players"**



**Merchandise:** We offer a small range of traditional Newport RFC merchandise, Polo Shirts in various colours and sizes at a cost of £17.50 and Ties at just £11.

# Former Players Association - News

The Former Players Association have had a busy season and held regular social events with other associations in South Wales. We have enjoyed excellent visits to Cardiff, Cross Keys and Swansea and also hosted them at the return fixtures at Rodney Parade.

The fixture against Cross Keys was particularly well attended and the Platinum Suite was packed to hear former British Lion and Wales international Brian Price give an excellent speech recounting his experiences playing for both Newport and Cross Keys. It was also very pleasing to welcome former Newport and Cross Keys player Jack Hancock to this event. Jack played for both teams and was capped several times in the second row by England in the 1950's before turning professional and moving north. Jack also performed the Black and Amber Bullion Draw on the pitch at half time during the game and received a warm welcome from the Rodney Parade crowd.



**Jack Hancock performs the Bullion Draw**



**Alf Panting**

The Former Players Association also attended an event in the Burnett Suite before the game against Neath when some memorabilia donated by the family of Roy Burnett was displayed. The items had been restored by FoNR and are now hanging on the walls of the hospitality suite. The event was well attended and former players included Brian Price, David Watkins, Stuart Watkins, Ian Ford, Gordon Keeley, Brian Cresswell, Dick Shepherd and many others.

It has been great to see Alf Panting at most of the FPA events this season. Alf is the 2nd oldest surviving former Newport player as far as we know and is a very active member of our organisation at the age of 93.

The FPA are still very keen to bring together former Newport players of the seventies and eighties era and will welcome them with open arms and hopefully get their names and addresses to enter into the new 2007/2008 booklet. Please contact FoNR at their table in the clubhouse on match days who will put you in touch with the FPA committee.

## How Can You Help?

### **Bullion Draw :**

Please sign up today, March 2007 saw a first prize of £300, 2nd prize £75 & 3rd prize of **Your contribution will help to swell the prize fund, and directly help our club!**



**President John F Kennedy** almost once said "Ask not what your Club can do for you, but what you can do for your club"

**Merchandise:** Visit the table and see our range of quality merchandise. We have a range of replica shirts. Leisure wear, scarves, wallets, sunglasses Books and much, much more. Also a range of old matchday programmes are available for purchase.

**Shopping Portal:** have you considered on-lineshopping? visit our website, click on the link and shop with many major copanies. Same great prices, but FoNR will receive payment from the retailer. These payments are all used to help Newport Rugby.

**Membership:** If you are not already a member of the trust, **please join today.**

Your membership will help us to provide more help to Newport Rugby.



### **Your Club Needs You!**

If you would like to know more about the trust, or would like to help in any way, please visit our web site, or speak to us in person at our table. We need your support to enable us to continue to support Newport Rugby you the supporters.

**Contact FoNR at our table in the Club House before any home game.**

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**We hope that you have enjoyed this FoNR Newsletter an would wecome your comments.**